

# The Detective Kubu Newsletter

## **BIG YEAR FOR KUBU IN THE UK** **Two Kubu Books Launch**

Our new UK publisher—Orenda Books—launched the fourth and fifth Kubu mysteries in the UK and Europe this year. *Deadly Harvest* was released for Crimefest in Bristol in May, and *A Death in the Family* coincided with the Old Peculier Crime Writing Festival in Harrogate in July. Bloggers and reviewers picked up the series enthusiastically. The sixth in the series—*Dying to Live*—will be released by Orenda next year.

It has been a great pleasure working with our editor, Karen Sullivan, on the UK editions of the books. She is responsive and efficient, and has a commitment to marketing that should be the envy of the bigger publishers, who often do much less with far more resources. Orenda was nominated for the IPG Newcomer Award and most deservedly so!



Karen Sullivan, editor and publisher Orenda Books

We greatly look forward to Orenda publishing many more Michael Stanley books!

Follow us on Twitter at @detectivekubu

### **Reviews**

*Deadly Harvest* is exactly the type of crime fiction that I adore, combining an understanding of the cultures and beliefs of a country, all topped off with a little political intrigue to convey the sentiment of the area. Intelligent and enriching, this series promises to be an original and engaging one.

...Michael Stanley has already established a firm place on my 'must read' list.

[Rachel Hall Reviews](#)

Fans of foreign mysteries with a robust main protagonist, sprinkled with comedic relief alongside an affecting murder, you'll want to venture into this fascinating series.

[The Discerning Reader](#)

A totally different type of crime novel compared to my usual choice of British, American or Nordic, but it's great. Still violent death, still modern day policing, but in a different setting where beauty, poverty, culture, superstition and fear all make it seem slightly different.

[Steph's Book Blog](#)

There are some great, well released characters here, and also some great moments and scenes, most notably Kubu's trip to New York which confronts him both with a degree of cold he never believed existed and with meals large enough to challenge even him.

[Blue Book Balloon](#)

Would I recommend this book? You bet'cha! It's a brilliantly written police procedural with a cast of chilling characters who draw you in from page one until the very end.

[Damppebbles Book Review](#)

## OLD PECULIER CRIME WRITING FESTIVAL

We were delighted to be invited to participate in the OPCWF at Harrogate for the first time. The ubiquitous Peter James set up the program and hosted an amazing event. It was a great to be at the UK's premier crime festival.



Deon Meyer, Leye Adenle, Paul Mendelson, NJ Cooper, Michael, and Stanley

Although Harrogate is quite a way from the major centers in England, readers come from far and wide to meet their favorite authors. There are no parallel sessions, and so up to five hundred people may pack the auditorium and spill over to the TV monitors outside.

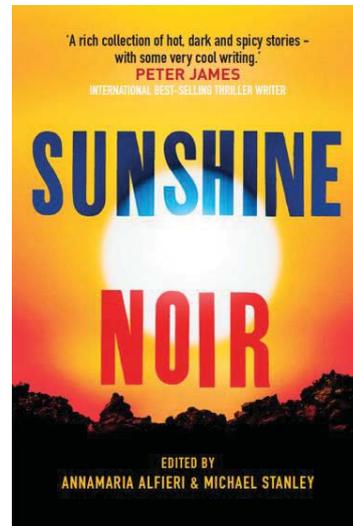
Our panel was called Murder Out of Africa, chaired by NJ Cooper, who did a wonderful job. We were joined by Deon Meyer—South Africa's best known crime writer, Leye Adenle—a powerful new Nigerian voice, and Paul Mendelson, who lives in London and writes gritty crime fiction set in Cape Town.

There were a lot of interesting topics covered, including why African crime fiction is largely neglected by UK readers. Replying to a question on why publishers don't publish more of it, Deon said that if readers wanted more, then publishers would respond.

It was a great experience and we'd go back like a shot!

Want to help your favorite author? Paste this URL into your browser and read how: <http://delilahpaints.blogspot.com/2013/01/the-best-way-to-help-your-favorite.html>

## MOVE OVER, MYSTERIES SET IN NORDIC PLACES



At last! The tide is beginning to turn. For a long time now, mysteries set in the cold, damp, grey climates of Scandinavia have enjoyed great popularity. Although there were excellent writers before, it was Stieg Larsson's *The Girl with the Dragon Tattoo* that got things moving. Since then there has been a flood of titles from the frigid north.

But now readers are beginning to look to warmer climes—to get their *noir* in the sunshine. After all, the shadows are darkest where the sun is brightest.

*Sunshine Noir* is one of the latest books in this new genre. Edited by our friend, Annamaria Alfieri, and ourselves, it's an anthology of short stories from seventeen terrific writers, set around the globe in hot places, from the Sahara to Thailand, from the Sonoran Desert to Guadeloupe, from Ethiopia to Mykonos to the beaches of Ghana, and of course, in Botswana.

*Sunshine Noir* is a great read—actually seventeen great reads—and is available at Amazon in both e-book and paperback, and elsewhere in a variety of e-book formats. And you can order it from your local bookstore.

Give a book for Christmas.

### WHAT'S UP NEXT FOR KUBU?

The Bushmen have had a very hard time in Botswana over the past several hundred years. And in our sixth Detective Kubu mystery, *Dying to Live*, the situation doesn't change.

An extremely old Bushman is found by passing tourists lying next to a road in the Kalahari desert. He's dead. Initially the police think he's died of old age, but on closer examination they notice that his neck is broken. Probably an accident, they think. But they have to send the body for an autopsy.

Kubu receives a phone call from forensic pathologist, Ian MacGregor, who has something to show him. Kubu goes to the morgue, and MacGregor tells him that the Bushman's internal organs are those of a young man, yet he is old. Furthermore, he found an old bullet lodged in one of the abdominal muscles—but there is no evidence of an entry wound, no scarring.

Then two seemingly unrelated events take place: the Bushman's body is stolen from the morgue; and a local witch doctor, who is famous for his potions to prolong life, goes missing.

Kubu suspects that there may be a link.

*Dying to Live* is a tale of greed and avarice and the extent to which some people will go to attain immortality.

*Dying to Live* will be on the shelves in South Africa and the U.K. by midyear 2017, and at the end of the third quarter 2017 in the U.S.A.

Follow us on FaceBook at  
[www.facebook.com/MichaelStanleyBooks](http://www.facebook.com/MichaelStanleyBooks)

### *The jólabókaflóð*

In Iceland "the Christmas book flood" culminates in the giving of books on Christmas Eve. Almost everyone gives and receives books, then they settle down and spend the night reading. Of course, this is easy in a country where it's dark for nearly twenty-four hours. Not so easy in countries like Botswana where Christmas comes in mid-summer.

Read the Murder is Everywhere blog:  
[www.murderiseverywhere.blogspot.com](http://www.murderiseverywhere.blogspot.com)



Break time at Harrogate



Leye Adenle, Deon Meyer, and Stanley at Harrogate

### Some Books We Recommend:

*Easy Motion Tourist* – Leye Adenle  
*Bad Seeds* – Jassy Mackenzie (out soon)  
*Blackout* – Ragnar Jonasson  
*The Abrupt Physics of Dying* – Paul Hardisty  
*Power Play* – Mike Nicol  
*The Idol of Mombasa* – Annamaria Alfieri  
*I Remember You* – Yrsa Sigurdardottir  
*Gunshot Road* – Adrian Hyland  
*The Blood Whisperer* – Zoë Sharp

And the classic:

*The Daughter of Time* – Josephine Tey